

electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition by expanding the flexures;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the electrode carrying member and away from the tissue and allowing at least a portion of the moisture to pass through the openings in the flexures.

6. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of: [The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) includes]

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

(b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated;

(c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and

(d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the electrode carrying member and away from tissue and

permitting at least a portion of the moisture to pass from the array into the tubular member.

7. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of: [The method of claim 3 wherein step (d) includes the step of]
- (a) providing an ablation device including an expandable electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;
- (b) positioning the electrode array in contact with tissue to be ablated and moving the array to an expanded condition;
- (c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate; and
- (d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the electrode carrying member and away from the tissue, including applying suction to draw the moisture through the tubular member.

15. (AMENDED) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of: [The method of claim 1 including the step of]
- (a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate tubular member, the electrode array including a fluid

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permeable elastic member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;

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- (b) positioning the electrode array into contact with tissue to be ablated;
 - (c) delivering RF energy through the array to the tissue to cause the tissue to dehydrate;
 - (d) permitting moisture generated during the dehydration of step (c) to pass into the electrode carrying member and away from the tissue
and
 - (e) applying suction through the tubular member to draw the tissue into contact with the electrode array.

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17. (AMENDED) An ablation and/or coagulation apparatus for use in delivering energy to tissue for ablation, the apparatus comprising:
[The ablation and/or coagulation apparatus of claim 16 further including an elongate tube having at least one opening adjacent to the array and a vacuum source fluidly coupled to the elongate tube]
an electrode array carried by an elongate member, the array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating and conductive regions thereon, the electrode array configured to permit moisture generated during ablation to pass actively and/or passively into the electrode array and away from underlying tissue;
a source of radio frequency energy electrically coupled to the conductive regions of the array;

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an elongate tube having at least one opening adjacent to the array;
and a vacuum source fluidly coupled to the elongate tube.

24. (AMENDED) An ablation and/or coagulation apparatus for use in

delivering energy to tissue for ablation, the apparatus comprising:

[The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the flexures include at least one fluid opening]

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an electrode array carried by a deflecting mechanism moveable between a retracted position and an expanded position wherein the deflecting mechanism includes a pair of elongate flexures that include at least one fluid opening, the array including a fluid permeable elastic member having insulating and conductive regions thereon, the electrode array configured to permit moisture generated during ablation to pass actively and/or passively into the electrode array and away from underlying tissue;

a source of radio frequency energy electrically coupled to the conductive regions of the array.

Please add new Claims 32 and 33:

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--32. (NEW) A method of ablating and/or coagulating tissue, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an ablation device including an electrode array carried by an elongate member, the electrode array including a fluid permeable metallized fabric member having insulating regions and conductive regions thereon;